

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Joe Witkowski, Jerry Polus, Sherry Steenbock, Rosemary Desisles, John Walschinski
EXCUSED: Troy Ness, John Maino, Donald Bettine

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1237

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of December 20, 2011.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discussion Regarding Veterans Ceremony at Brown County Fair.**

Jerry Polus informed the Subcommittee that he had contacted the Denmark High School band to see if they would perform at the veterans' ceremony at the Fair in August. The band director declined to make a commitment as she is anticipating a spring retirement and did not wish to commit a new band director for a summer engagement. Polus has also contacted the Wisconsin National Guard with regard to the possibility of their band performing and he is still waiting to hear back from them.

Polus also stated that he contacted the Air Force Band of Mid-America and was informed that there is a good possibility they would be able to perform at no cost. The band performs throughout the Midwest and consists of a seven person group that plays rock, pop and country. This band is currently scheduled to play in the UP earlier in the week and they felt there was a good likelihood that the band could also make a stop at the Fair in Green Bay. Polus did state that the band inquired as to the possibility of performing during prime time instead of the usual noon time so that they could get a larger crowd. Polus has spoken with Fair Director Ron Dyke about this and was informed that he would have to talk to the Fair's executive committee at their next meeting.

The consensus of the Subcommittee was that if more advertising were done, a larger crowd could be garnered for the usual noon ceremony. Polus stated that if the Fair is not able to move the veterans' ceremony to some time during prime time, it would be important to reassure the band that the performance would be heavily promoted to still have a large crowd in the afternoon. Chair Erickson felt that perhaps the veterans ceremony could be preceding one of the larger evening acts and this could be stated in advertising.

Polus felt he would know for sure by the next meeting if the band was available, however, he will still make contact with the Army National Guard Band as Plan B and then go from there.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus – Veterans Court.

Polus reported that he had received information from Don Bettine that a meeting has been scheduled for February 22, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Resch Center to discuss the future of the Veterans Arena Complex as there is a possibility that this could be torn down. Duane Pierce expanded on this and stated that the meeting was open to all veterans and the arena staff wanted input from veterans to find out what concerns they have with regard to the facility so that all concerns are on the table.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Haskins, Pierce, Steenbock, Witkowski, Walschinski and Desisles).

Jim Haskins shared an article he had read in the Green Bay Press Gazette on Jerry Miller. Miller, a founding board member of the Green Bay Country Club, has successfully organized an annual golf outing to honor and raise money for local veterans. To date, this golf outing has raised more than \$50,000. Miller has expanded his efforts in supporting veterans this year by starting an "Adopt a Soldier" program through the country club and also organized a program to send 1,000 Christmas cookies to deployed members of the Army Reserve.

Duane Pierce stated that he received a blurb that the Packers brought a veteran and his family from Texas to Green Bay for the recent playoff game. He also stated that he had received a notification from the Menasha Public Library that a ceremony would be held on January 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. to kick off the viewing of the Paper Wall, which lists the 1244 Wisconsin KIAs and MIAs from the Vietnam War.

Sherry Steenbock reported that four new certificates were sent out this month, for a total of 1237.

John Walschinski and **Joe Witkowski** did not have anything to report.

Rosemary Desisles stated that she is a member of the Patriot Guard and Mike Weaver, the senior ride captain, has offered to attend any local events for veterans. Desisles explained that you do not have to be a veteran or a biker to be part of the Patriot Guard. Duane Pierce further explained that the Patriot Guard is known for attending funerals of veterans to stand as a buffer between Baptist church members who protest at military funerals and the deceased's family.

8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Chair Erickson stated that a parade was being considered nationally for veterans returning from Iraq, however, only 32 percent of persons surveyed felt there should be a parade. Erickson had recently met a vet with whom he brought up the idea of a local parade to welcome home vets. This vet said that he would be more than happy to work on a project and Erickson was looking for the Subcommittee's input as to what they felt the interest and feasibility of this would be. The Subcommittee felt that it was worth looking into and Erickson asked that this be included on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion and consideration.

9. Adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO ADJOURN AT 5:46 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary